

1775.

CONTINUED FROM FIFTH PAGE

the express purpose of recalling the faith and honor of our fathers. We are filled with awe when we are reminded that we stand over the sod which drank their first blood in the great struggle which made these United States of America an independent nation. The actors in that memorable scene have long since passed from the world. But being dead they still speak. The names of the men who fell in Lexington Common were carved in granite by the grateful Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in the last year of the last century. The granite monument may crumble to dust, but the posthumous influence of our martyred ancestor will be felt throughout the world till the heavens no more. Some of us have seen the venerable forms of men who took part in our Revolutionary War, and have heard them relate the details of those eventful days. Though we cannot any more listen to the tale as it fell from their lips, we can reheat their deeds and consider those magnificent results which have proceeded from their martyrdom, so with ill-reverence and with gratitude to Almighty God, we are gathered about the very headspring of a stream which already has run so far and is destined to swell into a vast flood.

THE RELIGIOUS LESSONS.

It was on the evening of the 13th of April, 1775, just one century ago, that a detachment of British troops set forth from Boston on their march to the town, causing, as by a spark, the explosion of the smoldering indignation which now has become a national passion. It was on that evening that the Committee of Safety, acting upon the Christians' trust, it has seemed good to the committee in charge of these services that the censuris should begin with such religious lessons as would impress the minds of the soldiers with the sense of their duty to their minister. Rev. William Ellington, was among them, but in hand, giving sanction and courage to the scene. When a company was about to march on Cambridge Common to entrench themselves on Bunker Hill, prayer was offered by President Langdon beneath the stars of that summer night for the favor of Heaven on so solemn a procedure.

Among the signs of the Declaration of Independence stands the name of ergymian John Witter-spouse. The representative of a large corporation and a patriot, he died at any time during his life in sympathy with the cause.

Incidents without number might be cited illustrating the influence of the ministers of religion by prayer and personal presence in the cause of their country. A few instances will give the sanction or leave to the cause of patriotism, and inspiring their countrymen with more than native courage. But there is need of recalling the services of our protestant ministers, especially in the cause of the revolution. Unlike the clerics in many countries, who have been looked upon with suspicion and distrust as the tools of their respective governments, so the ministers of religion in this country, and especially in New England, were universally regarded as among the foremost leaders in the cause of freedom.

There were, however, some exceptions to this rule.

The Rev. Dr. Bellows, pastor of All Souls' church, preached yesterday on the Concord Centennial. After the singing of the 54th hymn the reverend gentleman referred in his prayer to the Centennial of the outbreak of the war of independence to be celebrated to-day in Lexington and Concord. He spoke of the fathers of the country, who wrought its civil and religious freedom. It was planted in the blood of those noble men, who trusted in God. Let us invoke God's protection on the descendants of those men who prepared the country for its great destiny. Let us sorrow for having somewhat from the great examples they gave us of purity and probity, or departing from their ways and neglecting our duties, which they respected as imposed upon them by the Almighty Judge of all things.

PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED.

THE SERMON BY REV. DR. BELLOWS.

winter. We have occasional days of summer warmth, and in the spring and summer days of frost and storm, but these do not hinder the progression of the seasons, and great rivers have their ebb and flow of water, but the mighty currents of the world's events, the revolutions induced by ambition and impelled by evil passions have had a short-lived success.

NAPOLEON'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

The importance of Napoleon's achievement of military conquest was evident, but of short duration. Other revolutions or attempts at revolution, inspired by the highest and holiest motives, encountered greater difficulties and temporary defeat, yet nevertheless did not accomplish their ends at the expense of each day or month or year. Time is an essential element in that great drama which occupies so many lives and centuries. Events and incidents, the causes and reasons of which occur, are explained by later disclosures of Providence. The justice of God in his application to individuals will be vindicated in another life. Nations have their relations with God, and their existence depends upon his favor.

THE PUNSM PHALANX.

The Putnam Phalanx left here by special train to-day for the Concord celebration. They stay at Mansfield, Mass., to-night and go to Concord early in the morning.

WHO FOUND THE MEN?

HARTFORD, April 18, 1875.

A ROLAND FOR THE OLIVE OF "WHO FIRED THAT SHOT?"—A GOOD WORD FOR ACTON-DEACON HAYWARD'S TELLING SPEECH.

NEW YORK, April 18, 1875.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:

While every son of Massachusetts must feel a pulsation of pride that to the people of the old Commonwealth was given the privilege of beginning the resistance to the aggressive acts of the British Ministry toward the American colonies, and happy in having recognized by the whole country the glory of the grand achievement of those early days when the militia men of Middlesex county "buidled so much better than they knew," still in reading the accounts of the transactions of that eventful day, it seems to a Middlesex county man that there is some danger that the most meritorious and therefore the most silent men of that day may be forgotten or their exploits substantially overlooked under the more prominent claims of Lexington and Concord to all the glories of the 19th of April.

There has ever been, from the earliest time, a contest between Lexington and Concord to which any resistance by arms was made at Lexington, the people of Lexington claiming that they returned the fire of the British regulars, and the British authorities and Concord claiming that there was no actual resistance made on Lexington Common, and that the first resistance by arms to British troops took place in the town of Concord, which claim seems to have the weight of authority.

A substantial outline of the facts may be stated in a few words. General Gage sent out some thousand regulars from Boston on an expedition to Concord to destroy certain military stores gathered there by the provincials in view of an armed struggle there evidently impending.

This expedition was conducted with the greatest secrecy, and officers were sent forward to stop all postriders or other means of communication to the inhabitants of the towns along the line of march, and also to guard lest the stores should be removed or armed resistance organized. This "reconnaissance in force," as it probably would now be termed, was very successful. But by Paul Revere, and perhaps one other man, who got wind of the purpose of the expedition, an alarm was given to the inhabitants of the country of the march of the troops.

A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE.

The British column arrived at Lexington after a march over the route, as it then was, of about ten miles, about the hour of sunrise. A company of the Lexington militia had gathered upon the common, insignificant in numbers and arms as compared with the British regulars. The British commander, Pitcairn, seeing the militia apparently making a stand, called out to them to be within speaking distance—"Disperse, ye rebels! Lay down your arms and disperse!" Whether the Lexington men had obeyed this order or not can never be known, for immediately thereafter the order was given to the leading rank of the British troops to fire, which order was obeyed, and a fusillade kept up for some rounds, whereupon the militia immediately fled, leaving some six killed and nine wounded. It is noteworthy here that of those wounded, one was a colored soldier.

PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED.

THE LESSONS OF THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD.

The Rev. Dr. Bellows, pastor of All Souls' church, preached yesterday on the Concord Centennial. After the singing of the 54th hymn the reverend gentleman referred in his prayer to the Centennial of the outbreak of the war of independence to be celebrated to-day in Lexington and Concord. He spoke of the fathers of the country, who wrought its civil and religious freedom. It was planted in the blood of those noble men, who trusted in God. Let us invoke God's protection on the descendants of those men who prepared the country for its great destiny. Let us sorrow for having somewhat from the great examples they gave us of purity and probity, or departing from their ways and neglecting our duties, which they respected as imposed upon them by the Almighty Judge of all things.

DEACON HAYWARD'S SPEECH.

At the dinner given to the representative reminiscences of the old dispute being called up, a son of Mr. Hoar, presiding, with an address equal to that displayed by his father, in the inscription which he had just quoted, selected a very forcible division of the town, and then delivered a speech in his home, even so much as an exhortation in a meeting of his church, in which he told the people of Concord to be ready to meet the troops on the 19th of April. We proceed to see what occurred on that occasion.

Deacon Hayward, who had been selected to speak on the honor which awaited him at the dinner-table at the celebrants, until too late an hour for a speech to be prepared for him. When the proper toast was called,

"THE MEN OF ACTON."

to the great surprise of the audience, Deacon Hayward, who had been called to speak on the 19th of April, responded with a speech equal to that displayed by his father, in the inscription which he had just quoted, selected a very forcible division of the town, and then delivered a speech in his home, even so much as an exhortation in a meeting of his church, in which he told the people of Concord to be ready to meet the troops on the 19th of April. We proceed to see what occurred on that occasion.

Mr. CHAPMAN, of Concord, said, "I am sorry to say, that I was to respond to the toast of 'Acton,' but I never made a speech in my life. I can't make a speech now; but I will give you a sentence." And he did. "The 19th of April made us always be invited upon such occasions, the men of Concord arising out of their confining claims for the honor of the day. The operators in Concord have a right to sit on such a bench as this, and to be invited to dine with their wives and braves, and that they made the first forcible resistance in front, no matter where their bullets struck. On one occasion, we believe, at the dinner given to the representative reminiscences of the old dispute being called up, a son of Mr. Hoar, presiding, with an address equal to that displayed by his father, in the inscription which he had just quoted, selected a very forcible division of the town, and then delivered a speech in his home, even so much as an exhortation in a meeting of his church, in which he told the people of Concord to be ready to meet the troops on the 19th of April. We proceed to see what occurred on that occasion.

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